UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/51/566/Add.20
29 November 1996
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

Fifty-first session
Agenda item 80

CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND STOCKPILING OF BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) AND TOXIN WEAPONS AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION

Report of the First Committee (Part XXI)*

Rapporteur: Mr. Parfait-Serge ONANGA-ANYANGA (Gabon)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The First Committee considered agenda item 80 jointly with all the other items relating to disarmament and international security (for details, see A/51/566).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/51/L.2

2. At the 11th meeting of the Committee, on 22 October 1996, the representative of Hungary, on behalf of Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction" (A/C.1/51/L.2). Subsequently,

* The reports of the Committee on all the agenda items relating to disarmament and international security (items 60, 61 and 63-81) will be issued under the symbol A/51/566 and addenda.

Bangladesh, Croatia, Cuba, El Salvador, Estonia, Iceland, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Luxembourg, Mauritius, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Slovenia and Spain joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

3. At the 19th meeting, on 11 November, the Secretary of the Committee, on behalf of the Secretary-General, made a statement on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution (see A/C.1/51/PV.19).

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/51/L.2 without a vote (see para. 5).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

5. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions relating to the complete and effective prohibition of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons and to their destruction,

Noting with satisfaction that there are one hundred and thirty-nine States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction,[1] including all the permanent members of the Security Council,

Bearing in mind its call upon all States parties to the Convention to participate in the implementation of the recommendations of the Review Conferences, including the exchange of information and data agreed to in the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction,[2] and to provide such information and data in conformity with standardized procedure to the Secretary-General on an annual basis and no later than 15 April,

Recalling its resolution 46/35 A, adopted without a vote on 6 December 1991, in which it welcomed, inter alia, the establishment, proceeding from the recommendations of the Third Review Conference,[3] of an ad hoc group of

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[1] Resolution 2826 (XXVI), annex.

[2] BWC/CONF.III/23, part II.

[3] See BWC/CONF.III/23.

governmental experts open to all States parties to identify and examine potential verification measures from a scientific and technical standpoint,

Recalling also its resolution 48/65, adopted without a vote on 16 December 1993, in which it commended the final report of the Ad Hoc Group of Governmental Experts to Identify and Examine Potential Verification Measures from a Scientific and Technical Standpoint,[4] agreed to by consensus at the last meeting of the Ad Hoc Group at Geneva on 24 September 1993,

Recalling further its resolution 49/86, adopted without a vote on 15 December 1994, in which it welcomed the final report of the Special Conference of the States Parties to the Convention,[5] adopted by consensus on 30 September 1994, in which the States parties agreed to establish an ad hoc group, open to all States parties, whose objective should be to consider appropriate measures, including possible verification measures, and draft proposals to strengthen the Convention, to be included, as appropriate, in a legally binding instrument to be submitted for the consideration of the States parties,

Recalling the provisions of the Convention related to scientific and technological cooperation and the related provisions of the final report of the Ad Hoc Group of Governmental Experts, the final report of the Special Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, held from 19 to 30 September 1994, and the Final Documents of the Review Conferences,

1. Welcomes the information and data provided to date, and reiterates its call upon all States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction to participate in the exchange of information and data agreed to in the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

2. Also welcomes the progress made by the Ad Hoc Group in pursuing the mandate established by the Special Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on 30 September 1994, and urges the Ad Hoc Group, in order to fulfil its mandate, to intensify its work with a view to completing it as soon as possible before the commencement of the Fifth Review Conference and to submit its report, which shall be adopted by consensus, to the States parties to be considered at a special conference;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to render the necessary assistance to the depositary Governments of the Convention and to provide such services as may be required for the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Review Conferences, as well as the decisions contained in the Final Report of the Special Conference, including all necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Group;

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[4] BWC/CONF.III/VEREX/9 and Corr.1.

[5] BWC/SPCONF/1.

4. Welcomes the convening, at the request of the States parties, of the Fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention at Geneva from 25 November to 6 December 1996;

5. Calls upon all signatory States that have not yet ratified the Convention to do so without delay, and also calls upon those States that have not signed the Convention to become parties thereto at an early date, thus contributing to the achievement of universal adherence to the Convention;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction".

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A/51/566/Add.21
29 November 1996
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ORIGINAL: FRENCH

Fifty-first session
Agenda item 81

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Report of the First Committee (Part XXII)*

Rapporteur: Mr. Parfait-Serge ONANGA-ANYANGA (Gabon)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The First Committee considered agenda item 81 jointly with all the other items relating to disarmament and international security (for details, see A/51/566). For the documents before the Committee under item 81, see A/51/566, paragraph 3.

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolution A/C.1/51/L.42 and Rev.1

2. At the 16th meeting of the Committee, on 6 November 1996, the representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia introduced a draft resolution entitled "The maintenance of international security - prevention of the violent disintegration of States" (A/C.1/51/L.42). Subsequently, Austria, Belgium, the Congo, Denmark, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Zaire joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

3. On 13 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/51/L.42/Rev.1) submitted by the same sponsors, and Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Norway, the Republic of Moldova,

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the Russian Federation, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, subsequently joined by Albania, Ecuador and Ukraine, which contained the following changes:

(a) A new operative paragraph 4 was inserted, reading:

"4. Affirms also the need for strict compliance with the principle of the territorial integrity of any State",

and the subsequent paragraphs were renumbered accordingly;

(b) In operative paragraph 5 (former paragraph 4), after the words "relevant international", the word "governmental" was deleted.

4. At its 24th meeting, on 15 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/51/L.42/Rev.1 by a recorded vote of 137 to none, with 7 abstentions (see para. 7). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Algeria, China, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, Pakistan, United Republic of Tanzania.

B. Draft decision A/C.1/51/L.22

5. At the 14th meeting, on 4 November, the representative of Colombia, on behalf of the States Members that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, introduced a draft decision entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security" (A/C.1/51/L.22).

6. At its 24th meeting, on 15 November, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.1/51/L.22 by a recorded vote of 95 to none, with 51 abstentions (see para. 8). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

7. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The maintenance of international security - prevention of the violent disintegration of States

The General Assembly,

Recalling the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Convinced that the observance of the Charter and the principles of international law is essential for the strengthening of international peace and security,

Considering the emergence of new opportunities for building a peaceful world,

Mindful of the obligations of all States under the Charter, inter alia, to refrain in their international relations from threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, to develop friendly relations among nations and to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Deeply concerned that situations that may lead to a breach of international peace are continuing in spite of the efforts of the United Nations to put an end to them and to avert such conflicts in the future,

Stressing the importance of the activities of the international organizations, such as the Organization of African Unity, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Organization of American States, the Association of South-East Asian Nations, the Council of Europe, the League of Arab States and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, with the aim of preventing the violent disintegration of States, of maintaining international peace and security and of promoting international cooperation for development,

Considering that the violent disintegration of States may threaten the maintenance of international peace and security,

Affirming the need for United Nations measures to help prevent the violent disintegration of States, thereby enhancing the maintenance of international peace and security and the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

1. Calls upon all States, the relevant international organizations and competent organs of the United Nations to continue to undertake measures in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations as appropriate to help prevent the violent disintegration of States;

2. Stresses the importance of good-neighbourliness and the development of friendly relations among States to the solution of problems among States, to prevent the violent disintegration of States and to promote international cooperation in accordance with the Charter;

3. Affirms the need for strict compliance with the principle of the inviolability of international borders among States;

4. Affirms also the need for strict compliance with the principle of the territorial integrity of any State;

5. Requests all States and the relevant international organizations to communicate to the Secretary-General their views on the maintenance of international security - prevention of the violent disintegration of States;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session an item entitled "The maintenance of international security - prevention of the violent disintegration of States".

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8. The First Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security

The General Assembly decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security."